

As a guide, the following **IS** likely to require consent from the Environment Agency:-

1. Any dredging using an excavator to remove silt and/or weeds and roots from a main river watercourse
2. Certain works affecting the bed or banks of a watercourse or a flood defence structure
3. Cut vegetation or other material will need to be disposed of in accordance with waste legislation

In addition if the site is formally designated (i.e. Site of Special Scientific Interest or Scheduled Ancient Monument.) then approval from another organisation (e.g. Natural England) may also be required.

The following is likely **NOT** to require consent from the Environment Agency (but wildlife legislation still applies) :-

1. Weed cutting (provided the bed is not disturbed through removal of silt/roots)
2. Removal of fallen trees
3. Trimming of bushes and scrub on the riverbank
4. Clearing debris or rubbish
5. De-silting ordinary watercourses

**NB** : In disposing of any of the materials created through these works you may still need to comply with waste legislation.

**IF IN DOUBT contact us on 08706 506 506.**

Whether our consent is required or not, we can provide advice on how best to manage flood risk, and how to assess and protect important wildlife and habitats while undertaking maintenance work.

It is important to understand that an ecologically important river channel can still be managed to reduce flood risk. However, this work must be undertaken sensitively, following best practice which we can provide on request. For example, this could entail using a particular technique, or avoiding a particular time of the year. It is also important to understand that watercourse maintenance may not make any substantive difference to large flood events, and any maintenance should be undertaken with an understanding of the benefits which may or may not accrue.